(c) the date by when this new system is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Union Public Service Commission are considering the use of the computer aided "paperless" examinations system. In order to test its effectiveness, the U.P.S.C. have entrusted the National Informatics Centre with the task of conducting one of their smaller recruitment examinations this year, using the new method.

(c) No definite date has yet been fixed for introduction of the new system.

Stores Set up by Kendriya Bhandar

2225. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stores and fair price shops which have been set up by Kendriya Bhandar in Tamil Nadu and whether there is a proposal to set up any more shops in the current year;

(b) whether Government have any plan to open stores and fair price shops at Madurai in Tamil Nadu in the current year or in next year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Kendriya Bhandar have set up 8 Stores and 4 Fair Price shops in Tamil Nadu. There is no proposal to set up any more shops in the current year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Branches of Kendriya Bhandar are opened mostly in areas having concentration of Central Government employees, taking into account factors like availability of marketing facilities, financial viability of the new stores as well as, availability of suitable and adequate accommodation on a nominal rent. These criteria are not fulfilled in the case of Madurai.

Promotion of Section Officers

2226. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the direct recruit Section Officers appointed through Civil Services Examination get promotions earlier than their counterpart promotee Section Officers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the direct recruit Section Officers have become Deputy Secretaries with a span of 15 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the promotee Section Officers with 12 years of regular service are yet to get their promotion; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to the grievances of the promotee Section Officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Promotion to Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) is made by selection from amongst permanent Section Officers with 8 years approved service in the grade (4 years for SC/ST officers whose juniors are considered for promotion) falling within the field of selection; in accordance with the rules and regulations in this regard. Officers with 5 years approved service in Grade I are eligible for promotion as Deputy Secretary.

(b) The position varies from year to year. In the latest panel of Deputy Secretary of CSS for the year 1991 issued on 9th November, 1992, of the 21 direct recruit Section Officers included, 1 officer counts his approved service as Section Officer from 1-7-77, 3 officers from 1-7-76 and the remaining 17 officers from earlier dates.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The promotion of an officer depends on the availability of vacancies, his position in the field of selection and the merit of the officer.

Demands of SC/ST

2227. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: